

HOUSE BILL 2756
By Pruitt

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3; Title 4; Title 33; Title 50; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to agencies serving the elderly and disabled populations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) There is established a task force on services for the elderly and disabled Tennesseans. The task force shall consist of fifteen (15) members as follows:

- (1) a representative from the governor's staff appointed by the governor;
- (2) the executive director of the commission on aging or the director's designee;
- (3) a representative of the council on developmental disabilities appointed by the council;
- (4) the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;
- (5) the commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designee;
- (6) the commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities or the commissioner's designee;
- (7) the commissioner of finance and administration or the commissioner's designee;
- (8) the commissioner of labor and workforce development or the commissioner's designee;
- (9) the commissioner of veteran's affairs or the commissioner's designee;
- (10) the director of the bureau of TennCare or the director's designee;
- (11) the deputy commissioner of mental retardation services or the commissioner's designee;
- (12) the director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation;
- (13) a representative of a statewide organization representing older persons;

(14) a representative of a statewide advocacy group for the disabled; and

(15) the director of the fiscal review committee.

(b) The task force shall examine the recommendations of the comptroller of the treasury's report "Serving the Aged and Disabled: Progress and Issues" (December 2003). The task force shall develop recommendations for restructuring services and supports to the aged and disabled populations, with particular attention to those programs and populations that have some relationship to the commission on aging. The task force shall review the functions of the various departments and agencies related to the protection and provision of long-term care needs for the elderly and the disabled.

(c) Appointments shall be made within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act. The governor shall designate the chair of the task force and shall set the date of the first meeting of the task force. At the organizational meeting, a vice-chair and secretary shall be elected from the committee's membership.

(d) The task force shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing in each of the state's three (3) grand divisions. The primary purpose of such public hearings shall be the receipt of public testimony relevant to the task force's assigned topics of inquiry. Public hearings and all other meetings of the task force shall comply with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1.

(e) The department of finance and administration shall provide primary staff support to the task force. The task force is also authorized to request and receive assistance from any department, agency or entity of state government, upon request of the chair.

(f) The task force shall report its findings and any recommended legislation to the house health and human resources committee and the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee on or before January 15, 2005.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.